

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 10 is amended.

Applicant appreciates that the Office Action indicates that claims 3, 4, 12, 13, 21 and 25 are allowed. As submitted in the response filed on December 15, 2003, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14-20 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite is overcome by the previous amendments to claims 1, 2, 5-8, 10 and 16-20 without narrowing the claims.

By this amendment, claim 10 is amended to replace the phrase "connected to" with the phrase "communicated to" for the sake of clarity. As recited in claim 10, the control unit is communicated to the cutoff valve and closes the cutoff valve in certain circumstances. Thus, the control unit need not be physically connected to the cutoff valve. Claim 10 is broadened rather than narrowed by such amendment.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is still in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 5-11, 14-20 and 22-24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Mario A. Costantino
Registration No. 33,565

Klifton L. Kime
Registration No. 42,733

MAC:KLK/kzb

Date: January 5, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--